

less to the Crown, faithless to Canada, faithless to this great Empire to which we belong, if I did not consecrate every hour of my life to meeting on the threshold this dire attempt to subvert the very foundations of this Canadian Confederation. I have not a complete knowledge of the French language; but, Sir, I will make it my business to visit every part of the province of Quebec, and, with the assistance of my able friends and compatriots on this side of the House, I shall be prepared to meet the Minister of Public Works or the Prime Minister of this Government, and let it be fairly debated in the presence of intelligent men, whether Sir George E. Cartier, Sir Etienne Tache, or Sir Hector Langevin, would not have burned their hands off in the fire before they would have assented to a confederation on any such principle. I do not hesitate to say that no power could have induced either Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island to have any lot or part in this Confederation if they had supposed that any party which obtained power, as this party has obtained power could, without the due sanction of the people of this country, lay their unholy hands on the ark of confederation itself, and endeavor to destroy that work which I need not say to this House has made this Dominion of Canada a country of which every Canadian can be proud. (Cheers).

Now, Sir, what is the reason that it is not in the Speech? Will the right hon. gentleman tell us why, having come fresh from Washington to announce that this was the policy of his party, he has been prevented from putting it in the Speech, and submitting it as a subject for this House to deal with? The right hon. gentleman knows that before he can take one step towards the subversion of the constitution of Canada in this regard he has to have not only the authority of this House, but the authority of the Senate of Canada. There is not a man sitting in that House who does not hold his position for life under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament; and the Imperial Parliament never was known in its history to go back upon its solemn pledges and declarations as a legislative body. (Applause.) What more? Why, Sir, the unanimous vote of this House and of the Senate of Canada would not accomplish the object unless every province in this Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific that is a constituent part of this confederation, on due notice and after an election, ratified it as well. In 1893 you spoke of a reform of the Senate. Some suggested that the members should be elected by the people and some that they should be elected by the legislatures. You now propose that the relative proportions should be changed, because when the Senate and the House of Commons disagree you propose to turn in the House of Commons to